

HAVRE DAILY NEWS

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010 • Serving north-central Montana • Founded 1914 • Online at www.havredailynews.com

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Mixing old medicine with new
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Pine beetle problems spreads to Hi-Line
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Weather

Low tonight: 41
High Wednesday: 74
Sunny

Council clears alcohol in parks — with controversy

Alice Campbell

Havre Daily News

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A process that has largely been devoid of public comment during months' worth of committee meetings exploded with comments during a Havre City Council meeting Monday.

Council members, on the recommendation of both the Ordinance and Parks and Recreation committees, approved the first reading of an ordinance change to the section pertaining to alcohol in city parks at the April 5 meeting.

The ordinance change allows alcohol in Pepin, Deaconess and Optimist parks with special permits. Alcohol is already allowed in the 6th Avenue

Softball Complex at the men's slow-pitch softball field south of town, but is banned in all other parks.

The wording of "except by special use permit" allows for alcohol use in the other three parks.

A permit that must be applied for two weeks prior to the intended date of use, must be obtained from the city. That permit has not been finalized or voted on by the full council, yet, but a

draft form sets the following stipulations:

- Events with 24 people or fewer: no permit fee.
- Events with 25 to 49 people: \$35 fee.
- Events with 50 to 99 people: \$50 fee and proof of liability insurance.
- Events with 100 or more people: \$75 fee, proof of liability insurance and the event must be catered.

Areas where alcohol is served must be cordoned off, and petitions are to be filed with the police department.

Regardless of group size, parties must follow all city and state laws regarding alcohol consumption, including age limits; keep alcohol use in a designated area; clean up the area of use; consume only beer or wine in non-

■ See **Alcohol** Page A2

Sprucing up the town



Havre Daily News/Nikki Carlson
John Malsbary of AmeriCorps (from left), Annemiek Wilson of the University of Montana's Campus Corps in Missoula and John Davis of Blackfeet Community College Campus Corps in Browning wipe down the north wall inside the gym before tracing the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line logo on the wall at the club Saturday afternoon.

AmeriCorps does makeover at club

Emily Vaughn

Special to the Havre Daily News

The AmeriCorps' Campus Corps of volunteers hit Havre with gusto this weekend.

"This is our Spring Summit," said Delme Murdell-Watson, an AmeriCorps volunteer and Montana State University-Northern student, while vacuuming at the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line.

Murdell-Watson, the MSU-N Campus Corps team leader, put in a bid for this year's Spring Summit to be held in Havre. Winning that bid means that AmeriCorps college students came from across Montana to Havre and worked on various projects.

These projects ranged from repainting and cleaning the Boys & Girls Club to helping Opportunity Link Inc. get the Community Garden ready to grow healthy food, as well as assisting at the Northern Montana Care Center.

The busy group of about 80 college students are volunteers who normally help in the community local to their college campus. Then a couple of times a year they travel to a location as a group to take on a larger set of projects.

"Back in October we were in Missoula working on the 'M' hill," said Murdell-Watson. "We got rid of the noxious weeds and spruced it up."

Mike Ross, AmeriCorps Vista volunteer, is normally at the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line, although this is nowhere near his home state of Maine.

"I chose to come to Havre for school and to work with the AmeriCorps due to its central location; close to Glacier. I knew what I pictured Montana to be, and I wanted to be here."

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Havre Daily News/Nikki Carlson
Montana Tech Campus Corps members Lindsay Kilmer (right) and Anna Anderson of Butte load their paint brushes with blue paint for the striping in the hallway of the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line Saturday afternoon.

Limits approved for med marijuana sales

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People wishing to sell medical marijuana from vehicles or temporary locations will not be allowed to do so if the second reading of an ordinance banning their business is passed May 3.

Havre City Council members voted unanimously in favor of the first of two readings of the ordinance that bans itinerant vendors from selling the drug, but does not ban other itinerant vendors.

Many in the audience spoke against medical marijuana in general, leading to loud murmuring and at times the necessity for Mayor Tim Solomon to regain control of the meeting. But "it's just one narrow focus on the itinerant vendors," council President Allen "Woody" Woodwick emphasized.

The Planning and Development Committee today at 5:15 p.m. in City Hall will discuss zoning issues within the city, with zoning for medical marijuana grow operations and dispensaries as a part of the overall picture.

An ordinance seeking to place a moratorium on medical marijuana businesses in the city has been stalled due to timing issues. In order to pass an emergency ordinance, a public hearing on the ordinance will be held May 3 at 7 p.m. before the regularly scheduled council meeting. Full council is set to vote on the ordinance later that night, and because of the emergency stature of it, only one read-

ing is necessary for it to take effect.

Diana Greytak, who owns a local daycare facility, asked if medical marijuana businesses could be held accountable for infractions to state law like her business is "so that people can then protect themselves." She is subject to visits and inspections at any time, she said, and if anything is found wrong, it is placed on a website where anyone can view it.

Jane Trethewey, chair of the Planning and Development Committee, said that questions like Greytak's have not been answered, yet.

"Part of it is because we can't supersede state law, and state law is pretty fuzzy. And so we're having to kind of really be careful how we move through that," she said.

Council member Gerry Veis, who said he voted in favor of the 2004 initiative legalizing marijuana for medicinal use, suggested that the number of caregivers in Havre should be limited to between 15 and 20.

"Make sure that they're registered and you charge them a fee for that license ... it should be a large amount of money when you do it, because if

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Suspect to be retried on felony sex charge

Tim Leeds

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A Havre man will be re-tried on a sex charge on which a jury was unable to come to agreement on a verdict in a trial at the end of March.

Robert James The Boy Jr. born in 1969, is scheduled to go to trial on the felony charge of sexual intercourse without consent July 14-15.

The Boy, born in 1969, was charged with the felony sex charge and with one felony count and one misdemeanor count of criminal endangerment after he was accused of, on several occasions, having sex with a young girl who was staying at his residence. The charges were later amended, with two felony charges of criminal distribution of dangerous drugs replacing

the felony criminal endangerment charge.

The Boy was accused of supplying alcohol, marijuana and methamphetamine to the alleged victim and to the friend she was visiting when she stayed in the residence.

The girl said The Boy had had sex with her four or five times over several months, and that she had told him not to on some occasions but not on others because she was afraid of him.

During a trial March 29-30, Judge David Rice gave a directed verdict of not guilty on one of the distribution charges and dismissed the charge.

After five hours and 13 minutes of deliberation, the jury found The Boy not guilty of the endangerment and the remaining distribution charge. The jury was unable to reach a verdict on the sex charge.

Company, Boys & Girls Club win environmental awards

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The last several years have seen an increased awareness of what it takes to keep the environment healthy, and an area business and an area organization were recognized Monday for their efforts to keep Havre green.

Havre Muffler and Brake and the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line were presented with Environmental Hero Awards from Recycle Hi-Line during City Council's meeting.

Both "have shown a lot of interest and dedication to recy-

cling and making Havre a better community," said Stacey Dolezal, who presented the awards for the recycling group.

"I thought it was pretty cool," said Mary Owens, who accepted the award on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club. "I was just surprised because it was kind of a thing that we just kind of nonchalantly started doing, and I didn't think a thing when we started."

The club began collecting ink cartridges as a way to earn some extra income, she said, and over time the efforts have expanded to things like cardboard, jewelry, cellphones and iPods, among a list of others.

She estimated that the club receives \$50 a month from recycling ink cartridges, and teens are able to use the extra money for special events and things like keeping the snack bar stocked.

Plastic bags are collected and cut into pieces that Sue Swan then makes into reusable bags, Owens said.

The Torch Club, a pre-teen leadership group at the club, works with the recycling effort to complete their community service requirements, she said. Sometimes the efforts go beyond collecting things at the club, and children have helped to clean up Pepin Park before, she added.

"I just think with the environment and everything else, I just think it's a good thing for kids to learn, how to recycle," she said.

"If people have stuff to donate, we would be more than happy, and we could even pick it up if we need to," Owens said.

"We don't feel like we're doing any-

■ See **Awards** Page A2



Havre Daily News/Nikki Carlson
Havre Muffler and Brake owner Tony Dolphay slips a cardboard box into the cardboard recycling bin, located west of business, Friday morning. Dolphay said anyone can drop off cardboard in his recycling bin.



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Malta residents told not to use water

MALTA (AP) — Schools were closed and residents were given bottled water Monday in the northern Montana town of Malta after someone cut the wire fence around the city's water tanks.

An official from the Public Works Department said someone cut the fence and crawled inside, then used a ladder to get out. Officials discovered the breach Sunday morning, but the Public Works Department can't determine if someone tampered with the water until testing is completed.

Officials warned residents not to use tap water for drinking, bathing or cooking.

Shelley Nolan of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality told The Billings Gazette that preliminary tests results may be available as soon as tonight, but final results are a week away.

The city will not be able to use water from its two tanks until that is complete.

Phillips County Undersheriff Scott Moran said there was no

evidence that anybody put anything in the tanks and there was no visible damage.

"All the indications are that it was kids," he said.

Nolan said she has given permission for the city to flush tank water from its municipal pipes and then from residential pipes throughout the city of 1,980 people. Once that is complete, the city may be able to pipe in water from its wells.

Malta schools will also be

closed today, but will reopen Wednesday, with or without city water, school Superintendent Kris Kuehn told the Gazette.

Officials 250 miles away in Boulder, had a similar scare last month after officials discovered a hatch had been pried off one of the public water system's main storage tanks. The town's 1,360 residents were ordered to boil the water before drinking, cooking or brushing their teeth, and testing revealed no contamination.

Bresnan tests market for potential sale

BILLINGS (AP) — Two major financiers of Bresnan Communications say they are looking into the possibility of selling the cable company.

Providence Equity Partners in Providence, R.I., and Quadrangle Group LLC in New York City — two of Bresnan's major owners — hired UBS Financial Services last month to test the market for the company.

Bresnan spokesman Shawn Beqaj says the potential sale is about determining what the company is worth and has nothing to do with the death of founder William Bresnan last November at the age of 75.

"Bresnan is amongst the highest-performing companies in the cable industry, measured by virtually all metrics, subscribers and financial performance," Beqaj said, adding that exploring a sale was a natural occurrence in the company's

business cycle.

The cable company serves 308,000 customers in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah, with 44 percent of its subscribers in Montana. It has 1,300 employees — 688 in Montana alone — and offers high-definition digital television, high-speed Internet and digital phone services.

William Bresnan, a pioneer in the cable television industry, started his first cable company in Minnesota when he was 25. In 1984, he founded Bresnan Communications, which specialized in serving midsize and small communities, mostly in the Midwest.

Charter Communications paid \$3.1 billion for Bresnan Communications in 1999, including assumption of \$1 billion in debt. Providence Equity and Quadrangle first bankrolled the cable company in 2002.

Spruce up: Boys & Girls Club appreciates help

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The central location of Havre was how Murdell-Watson, who volunteers at the Boys & Girls Club and MSU-N's Student Support Services, managed to acquire the successful bid for the summit to be held in Havre.

"I knew that there was work to be done, so I put the bid in knowing that, as far as Montana is concerned, we're pretty central for everyone," Murdell-Watson said.

Boys & Girls Club officials appreciated the help from Americorps volunteers and local business owners to spruce up the place and make it more kid-friendly.

"We had part of the ceiling crumble last week, and we have a lot of work that needs done to

this building, so any help we can get is really needed," said Krista Solomon, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club.

"The AmeriCorps volunteers are helping with painting, yard work and various other projects to help us out," said Dawn Rathbun.

Volunteering is something that really hits home for most of these students, as many of them have been pitching in for years. Jenny Wilson from Montana Tech in Butte said, "I grew up in Mississippi, and I wanted to go somewhere with mountains. I heard about AmeriCorps and signed up."

"It matters more than most people know. Kids need to know that adults care and will model

good behavior," she said. "They want to see adults who are willing to keep things clean and paint fruit on the wall to encourage them to eat right. They just need to know you care."

That feeling was echoed throughout the club as people painted, cleaned and worked on projects.

Lindsay Kilmer from Butte started as a senior in high school with AmeriCorps volunteering with the Same Difference Theatre, a disability awareness group that works with all children to show them that a disability doesn't change the person inside.

"I really enjoy working with kids," said Kilmer, who had never been to the Hi-Line

before. She added that she was pleasantly surprised when she got to Havre even after not fully knowing the way.

"We thought we were close at one point, but it turned out that was Shelby."

For Solomon this is a poignant point in the club's history.

"Just to see some color on the walls and get some of these areas cleaned up means so much," said Solomon. "We have so much work that needs to be done here, and it's really an important place for a lot of kids. With a boiler that needs fixed before winter and a roof that's causing it to rain inside when it rains outside, any amount of help is truly appreciated."

Awards: Being green helps save money, business owner says

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Havre Daily News/Nikki Carlson

Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line Torch Club adviser and Youth Development specialist Mary Owens (second from left) holds onto a bag made out of cut up plastic grocery bags while Torch Club members Alara Vogel, 11, (from left), Trinity Leeds, 12, Shalina Rodgers, 13, and Alexandra Gobin, 13, cut up plastic bags Friday afternoon in the club. Owens said that once the plastic bags are cut up, the pieces are given to Sue Swan who then makes the strapped bags for the American Legion Auxiliary.

thing special here," said Tony Dolphay, owner of Havre Muffler and Brake. "There's a lot of other businesses that are doing basically the same things we are," even if his business has been recycling for years.

"The biggest impact we've seen is probably in the cardboard, as far as people actually dropping it off," he said, adding that many people drop off used oil as well, and he estimates the amount at between 150 and 200 gallons per month.

In the winter, Dolphay esti-

mated his business saves \$800 a month in heating costs by burning the used oil.

"Our main goal was to mainly keep the batteries and stuff out of the landfill," he said.

He figured that a couple hundred batteries and 200 to 300 pounds of cardboard are kept out of the landfill each month from his business.

"It's more of what we do to eliminate some of our garbage services and stuff like that and get some of this stuff back in the system," he added.

A bin for metal is also onsite and used to recycle scraps and steel, and 1,500 to 1,800 pounds accumulate in it each month.

Even the office paper is shredded and taken to Pacific Steel and Recycling for disposal.

"So what we generate here versus what is goes into a landfill" is small, he said.

Havre residents are fortunate not to have to pay for waste disposal, he said.

"So to offset that, it pays to recycle," he said. "I mean, just picking up the aluminum cans off the street is huge."

Concerted recycling efforts could expand the landfill's lifespan, he said.

"The biggest part of recycling is having an avenue or a place that you can actually take it," he added.

"If you've got an avenue to get rid (of recyclable waste), there's no reason for that to end up in the landfill."

Alcohol: ‘My vision for this community is grander than that.’

■ From Page A1

glass containers; and wrap up the event by 10 p.m. People must also sign liability waivers regardless of the party size, clearing the city of any responsibility.

Before council members unanimously approved the second and final reading of the ordinance change, audience members spoke against the ordinance change.

Allowing alcohol in parks casts a picture that Rip Steckel said he doesn't want.

"My vision for this community is grander than that," he said.

Kathy Woepfel told council members that she would like one place in Havre where alcohol is not allowed to take her grandchildren, adding that she picks up broken glass in Pepin Park while they play.

"Alcohol has done no one any good," she said, after shar-

ing that she was almost driven to suicide because of alcohol use in previous marriages.

"I am adamantly against this," Michelle Herndon said. "It affects my children's playground."

No one from the city contacted her, she said, even though her family lives across from one of the parks in question.

Several in attendance asked about enforcement.

"Because this is promoting drinking and driving," Kim Kaftan said.

"We're not responsible for their drinking," council member Gerry Veis said. He stressed that people abuse alcohol, but that personal responsibility must come into play at some point.

Parks and Recreation Committee Chairperson Bob Kaftan said that he is personal-

ly opposed to drinking, but that the permit system helps the city better regulate parks' use.

"We considered all of these things carefully. This was not a shot from the hip ...," he said. "We now have a system we didn't have before, and it's actually tighter now than it was before" because of the permit process.

"We did try to limit this as

much as possible," Ordinance Committee Chairperson Andrew Brekke said.

In response to concerns, Pam Hillery suggested notifying residents in the vicinities of the parks before meetings to discuss the permit further, and Bob Kaul suggested posting dates and times when alcohol will be in certain parks so that people know.



SALADS

- Taco Salad • Chicken Fajita Salad
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- Chef Salad • Tuna Salad

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April 28 and 29

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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APRIL 27
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Birth through 2 years of age
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Parents who attend with their child will be eligible for door prizes

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